

REMARKS

I. Status

The Office Action indicates claims 16-20 to be pending in this Application.

Claims 16-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Mersky (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0037012).

Claims 16 and 20 are independent.

II. Rejection of Independent Claims 16 and 20

The Office Action rejects claims 16 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Mersky.

However, the Applicant respectfully submits that Mersky fails, for example, to disclose, teach, or suggest:

“... in the case in which the host address acquired in said first acquisition step and the network address acquired in said third acquisition step coincide with the host address and the network address acquired in said fourth acquisition step”

as set forth in claim 16 (emphasis added).

As another example, Mersky fails to disclose, teach, or suggest:

“... in the case in which the host address of the apparatus as connected to the first network and the network address of the second network coincide with the host address and the network address of the sending side”

as set forth in claim 20 (emphasis added).

The Office Action, apparently equating a host address that agent system 4 of Mersky acquires from an Internet Service Provider with the “host address acquired in said first acquisition step” of claim 16 and with the “host address of the apparatus as connected to the first

network" of claim 20, and apparently equating a network address of a merchant system 10 of Mersky with the "network address acquired in said third acquisition step" of claim 16 and with the "network address of the second network" of claim 20, contends that the above-quoted of the claims is taught via paragraph [0031] of Mersky.

However, the Applicant respectfully submits that even if such equations are, for the sake of argument, taken to be valid, Mersky would still fail, for instance, to disclose, teach, or suggest that a host address that agent system 4 of Mersky acquires from an Internet Service Provider and a network address of a merchant system 10 of Mersky coincide with any other host address and network address, and instead merely discusses that:

"[r]eferring back to FIG. 2, the merchant system retrieves and transmits the web page for the selected transaction to transaction system 8 at step 42. The transaction system processes the information received from the merchant system and conveys an information request to agent system 4 at step 44"
(see Mersky paragraph [0031] lines 1-6).

In view of at least the foregoing, the Applicant respectfully submits that claims 16 and 20, as well as those claims that depend therefrom, are in condition for allowance.

III. Additional Matters

The Applicant respectfully requests that confirmation of priority document certified copy receipt be provided.

IV. Dependent Claim Rejections

The Applicant does not believe it is necessary at this time to further address the rejections of the dependent claims as the Applicant believes that the foregoing places the

independent claims in condition for allowance. The Applicant, however, reserves the right to further address those rejections in the future should such a response be deemed necessary and appropriate.

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CONCLUSION

The Applicant respectfully submits that this Application is in condition for allowance for which action is earnestly solicited.

If a telephone conference would facilitate prosecution of this Application in any way, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided.

AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required for this response, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-5170.

Furthermore, in the event that an extension of time is required, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to the above-noted Deposit Account and Order No.

Respectfully submitted,

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